

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01547 262143Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 /039 W
-----036950 270602Z /14

R 261726Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5245
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01547

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GW, UR
SUBJECT: GENSCHER ON BREZHNEV VISIT AND SOVIET
LEADERSHIP

REFS: (A) BONN 01411; (B) MOSCOW 1212

1. DURING MY CALL ON HIM TODAY, FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER STATED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN'S JANUARY
17 CALL ON CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD BEEN THE FIRST
NOTIFICATION BY MOSCOW THAT BREZHNEV WAS PLANNING TO
VISIT BONN FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 19 (REF B). AS HAD
VAN WELL (REF A), GENSCHER SAID THE FRG HAD NO NEW
INFORMATION ON BREZHNEV'S HEALTH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM GENSCHER REGARDING
THE SITUATION WITHIN THE KREMLIN, I DREW ON REF B,
NOTING THAT THINGS APPEARED TO BE CALM AND LEADERSHIP
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ACTIVITIES SEEMED NORMAL. GENSCHER INTERJECTED TO SAY
THAT THIS APPARENT CALM COULD WELL MEAN A STAGNATION
IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. HE THEN CITED WHAT
HE PERCEIVED TO BE RATHER ODD SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN
WARNING GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO , WHO WAS VISITING
THE FRG, AGAINST TRAVELING TO BERLIN (SEPTTEL). HE
OPINED THAT SOVIET DECISION MAKERS APPEARED TO BE

REPEATING THE MISTAKES OF THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS.
THIS WAS INDICATIVE OF POOR JUDGMENT ON THEIR PART
AND WAS NOT A HEALTHY PORTENT FOR THE FUTURE.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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